



Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman
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Heritage Foundation Has High Praise for H.R. 1

The Heritage Foundation, a widely respected conservative think tank, gives high marks to the *No Child Left Behind* bill, H.R. 1, in a report issued this week. “Unlike other education legislation now before Congress, H.R. 1 includes more measures to promote academic excellence, accountability, flexibility, and new opportunities for children left behind by the current system,” the report says.

According to the Heritage Foundation’s analysis, the *No Child Left Behind* bill would advance important conservative goals for education. Specifically, it:

- makes a “valuable first step in efforts to focus on federal funding on the needs of children rather than on institutions”;
- represents “a good start toward eliminating duplicative and ineffective programs”;
- allows “states and districts significant flexibility in exchange for meeting high accountability standards in improving academic achievement”;
- ensures “that limited English proficient students learn to read and speak English”; and
- empowers “teachers to create an environment that is both safe and conducive to learning by eliminating a barrier to discipline in the classroom”.

Message of the Day

This may be the most important moment in American education since 1965. Let’s make sure this opportunity doesn’t pass us by.

- *We are on the threshold of the first real effort to refocus the federal role in education toward its original goal of helping students who need help the most.*
- *The No Child Left Behind bill focuses on the President’s goal of closing the achievement gap for the most disadvantaged students through flexibility, accountability, and high standards.*

DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- The federal government has spent \$80 billion over the past decade on Title I programs to aid disadvantaged students.
- Along with accountability and flexibility, H.R. 1 contains school choice -- including private school choice -- to empower parents and children.
- According to the Heritage Foundation, current federal education law contains 61 different line item authorized programs; H.R. 1 cuts this number nearly in half.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“No parent should be left powerless and no child left helpless in a system that is not doing the job it is supposed to do.” President George W. Bush, radio address, April 21, 2001